

LEAD: 1500Z OCT 76  
FM RUCMOS  
DE RUEHLC 7605 263000  
ZNY CCCCC ZZN  
R 260519Z SEP 79  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5706  
RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 755  
RUFHEB/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 48  
RUSSCO/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 933G  
RUENMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1925  
RUSBCS/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7424  
RUGMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 498  
RUDKRV/AMEMBASSY VARSAN 58 ✓  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7625

E.O. 12865: GDS 9/19/85 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) OR-M  
TAGS: PINT AF UR  
SUBJ: COMMENTS BY TWO EASTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES ON AFGHAN  
POLITICAL SITUATION

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. I THINK IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE DEPTMENT IF I  
SHARED SOME COMMENTS GLEANED FROM GDR CHARGE KLAUS MASER  
AND POLISH AMBASSADOR EDWARD BARADZIEJ. OVER THE LAST  
TWO DAYS, I PAID CALLS ON THEM TO ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS  
ON THE LOCAL SITUATION. I SOUGHT THEM OUT DELIBERATELY  
SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN MORE OPEN AND FRIENDLY TOWARDS US  
THAN THE OTHER PRO-MOSCOW EMBASSY CHIEFS OF MISSION.

3. THE MOST IMPORTANT TIDBITS GATHERED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

-- ES-PRESIDENT TARAKI IS ALIVE AND BEING HELD WITH  
HIS FAMILY IN DETENTION IN A GOVERNMENT VILLA  
IN KABUL. HIS RESIDENCE IS GUARDED BY SOLDIERS.  
--BOTH ENVOYS CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN DISSENSION WITHING  
THE POPA PARTY PRIOR TO THE LATEST PURGE. BOTH DISPUTED THE  
WIDELY HELD OPINION AMONG WESTERN EMBASSIES THAT WITHIN THE PARTY  
TARAKI HAD HAD A LARGER FOLLOWING THAN HAFIZULLAH AMIN. THE  
POLISH AMBASSADOR SAID THAT TARAKI'S "CULT OF PERSONALITY" HAD  
BEEN OFFENSIVE TO MANY PARTY MEMBERS, AND THIS HAD CONTRIBUTED  
TO HIS LACK OF SUPPORT. HE ALSO SAID THAT TARAKI FAILED TO  
TAKE EVEN THE MOST ELEMENTARY STEPS TO BUILD A FOLLOWING,  
SUCH AS PAYING VISITS TO FACTORIES, SCHOOLS AND OTHER WORKING  
ESTABLISHMENTS. WHEN I OBSERVED THAT HAFIZULLAH AMIN NEVER  
PAID SUCH VISITS EITHER, THE POLE RESPONDED THAT IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY

OF THE PARTY LEADER TO SET THE EXAMPLE. THE POLE ALSO FAULTED TARAKI FOR NOT CONSULTING THE PARTY MCE. SINCE NOV. 1978 UNTIL HIS FALL--A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS--THERE HAD BEEN NO MEETING OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. (THE POLITBURO, THOUGH, MET FREQUENTLY.)

-- BOTH DIPLOMATS CONFIRMED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS FOR SOME TIME NOT BEEN HAPPY ABOUT FACTIONALISM IN THE PARTY. THE POLE WAS EXPLICIT IN STATING THAT A YEAR AGO THE SOVIETS WERE DISTRESSED ABOUT THE PURGING OF THE PARHAMISTS. HE SAID THAT MOSCOW HAD FROM THE START BEEN ENCOURAGING "UNITY OF ALL PROGRESSIVE ELEMENTS." THOUGH CIRCUMSPECT IN THEIR REMARKS, BOTH ENVOYS MADE PLAIN THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT PLEASED ABOUT THE RECENT DISPUTE AND PURGE WITHIN THE TOP RANKS OF THE PARTY, WHICH SAW TARAKI AND THE THREE MILITARY-ORIGIN CABINET MEMBERS REMOVED.

-- THE POLE SAID THAT THE DUUMVIRATE OF TARAKI AND AMIN COULD NOT HAVE LASTED LONG. IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT ONE OR THE OTHER WOULD EVENTUALLY PREVAIL, HE SAID.

-- NEITHER ENVOY THOUGHT THE SOVIETS HAD A DIRECT HAND IN THE REMOVAL OF TARAKI. IN FACT, THE POLE WAS SURE THAT MOSCOW WAS EMBARRASSED BY IT SINCE ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE BREZHNEV HAD GIVEN A BEARHUG TO TARAKI IN MOSCOW. HE SAID. "THIS MUST BE AN EMBARRASSING TO MOSCOW".

-- THE GDR CHARGE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE THREE FIRED MILITARY-ORIGIN CABINET MEMBERS WERE SOMEWHERE AT LARGE. THE POLE REFUSED TO VENTURE AN OPINION AS TO THEIR WHEREABOUTS.

4. COMMENT: THESE ARE NOT WEIGHTY HORSELS BUT I SHARE THEM WITH YOU.

AMSTUTZ